

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: ARREST CASE OF ALEXANDRU PATRASCU

REF: STATE 177174 AND PREVIOUS

1. ROMANIAN COUNSELOR IONITA ACCOMPANIED BY CONSUL IRINOIU CALLED SEPTEMBER 10 ON EE DIRECTOR BAKER TO REITERATE ARGUMENTS MADE EARLIER BY AMBASSADOR BOGDAN (STATE 175775) AND URGE PATRASCU BE ALLOWED LEAVE FOR ROMANIA. NEW ELEMENT, WHICH THE ROMANIANS FEEL ADDS WEIGHT TO THEIR REPRESENTATIONS IS, ACCORDING TO IONITA, FACT THAT MRS. PATRASCU - UPON HEARING NEWS OF HER HUSBAND'S ARREST "ON VOA OR RFE" - SUFFERED HEART ATTACK AND IS IN QUOTE VERY SERIOUS CONDITION UNQUOTE IN HOSPITAL. PATRASCU, ACCORDING TO ROMANIANS, HAS NOT BEEN TOLD. IONITA URGED DEPARTMENT USE ITS INFLUENCE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TO ARRANGE FOR PATRASCU TO DEPART. BAKER SAID WE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE AND, ON PERSONAL BASIS, SPECULATED THAT IF COURT AGREED TO ALLOW PATRASCU TO LEAVE FOR ROMANIA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT WOULD BE LIKELY TO REQUIRE FIRM GUARANTEES FROM

ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR THAT PATRASCU WOULD RETURN IF REQUIRED.
IONITA URGED DEPARTMENT TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT, VAGUELY
ALLUDING TO UNDESIRABLE REPERCUSSIONS IF ROMANIAN DEMANDS
WERE NOT MET.

2. AFTER CONSULTATIONS BY L WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AND US ATTORNEY IN DETROIT, BAKER INFORMED IONITA MORNING
SEPTEMBER 11 THAT US ATTORNEY HAD NO OBJECTION IN
PRINCIPLE TO ARRANGEMENTS ALLOWING CONDITIONAL DEPARTURE
OF PATRASCU. THIS WOULD NEED TO BE DONE THROUGH ATTORNEY
APPOINTED BY COURT FOR PATRASCU, GEORGE WOODS. BAKER
MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT DECISIONS AND CONDITIONS WERE
UP TO COURT. IONITA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

3. YOU MAY USE FOREGOING WITH BADESCU. RUSH

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